

Appl. No. 10/052,513
Amendment dated July 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 3, 2004. By the present Amendment, claims 1-4 and 7-20 have been cancelled, without prejudice to the Applicants' right to re-present these claims at a later date.

Also by the present Amendment, new independent claim 21 has been added to replace the original claim 1, and the dependencies of claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend on newly presented claim 21.

Reconsideration and allowance of independent claim 21 and its dependent claims 5 and 6 over the cited prior art to Ueno and Ishibashi relied on in rejecting claims 1-16 is respectfully requested. Newly presented claim 21 defines specific features of the present invention with regard to calculating matching errors, a modification value, a first exposure condition correction value and the modification of the calculated first exposure condition correction value to obtain the second exposure condition correction value to render exposure by using a second exposure tool. It is respectfully submitted that this serves as a clear distinction over the cited references to Ueno and Ishibashi. Accordingly, entry of newly presented independent claim 21, and allowance of this claims, together with its dependent claims 5 and 6, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which can be resolved by either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

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To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 520.41109X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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